

TV Notes | Jeremy Gerard

■ The election and its coverage ■ Revisiting
Dallas, November 1963 ■ Peacock joins koala:
NBC expands pact with Australian television.

Election Coverage

Pre- and post-election programs: Tonight, public television will focus most of its biggest political guns on the outcome of the Presidential election. A two-hour program, optimistically called "The Last Word," will feature commentary by Robert MacNeil, Jim Lehrer and Charlayne Hunter-Gault, of the "MacNeil/Lehrer Newshour"; Paul Duke, the host of "Washington Week in Review"; Louis Rukeyser, of "Wall Street Week"; William Greider, a correspondent for "Frontline" and for Rolling Stone magazine, and Bill Moyers, who probably doesn't need any introduction at all. Roger Mudd will be the host of the program, which is to focus on the major issues confronting the winner of tomorrow's election.

Tomorrow in its late-night slot, ABC News will present "Viewpoint: Covering Politics — Who's to Blame?" with the "Nightline" anchor, Ted Koppel, as host. This will be the 24th edition of "Viewpoint," in which a selected audience is given the opportunity to speak with journalists on current issues. Tomorrow's program will cover such topics as the im-

pact of polls and the influence of campaign managers on political coverage in the media.

Nov. 22, 1963, Revisited

From the You Were There department: On Nov. 22, the Arts & Entertainment cable channel, which is owned by NBC, ABC and the Hearst Corporation, will devote six hours to a replay of NBC's coverage of the assassination of President Kennedy in 1963, including the live reports from correspondents Chet Huntley, David Brinkley, Robert MacNeil, Frank McGee, and the host of this special broadcast, Edwin Newman, who was a member of the network news team covering the assassination.

A little sooner — on Nov. 17 — CBS News will mark the events in Dallas 25 years ago with "Four Days in November: The Assassination of President Kennedy" a two-hour special. The CBS News anchor Dan Rather, who reported the assassination from Dallas in 1963, is the host of the program, which will begin with Walter Cronkite's announcement of the shooting and end with the funeral cortege from the Capitol to Arlington National Cemetery and the burial of the President.

Peacock Down Under

How hungry are the networks for new markets? NBC has just expanded its six-year-old agreement with the Australian Television Network, which already has access to all NBC programming. Under the new agreement, NBC has the option of acquiring 15 percent of Qintex Australia, which owns the Australian network. That network would become NBC's first overseas affiliate.

Sweeping Shows

November is a "sweeps" month, when television advertising rates are adjusted for the coming quarter on the basis of ratings. That means the networks will be doing everything they can get away with to attract viewers — from the steamiest mini-series to lurid special news reports to nose-breaking news on the talk shows. Thus, CBS's "Spies, Lies and Naked Thighs," NBC dubbing Vanna White the "Goddess of Love" in a made-for-television movie, and ABC's "National Love and Sex Test."

As a public service — and in perhaps its most ingenious maneuver yet to attract some viewers of its own — "USA Today: The Television Show" has begun a nightly segment called "Sweeps Sleaze Update," charting what the program calls the sleaze factor on television. Thus the program will let viewers see what network is getting down and dirtiest on any given day or night.